

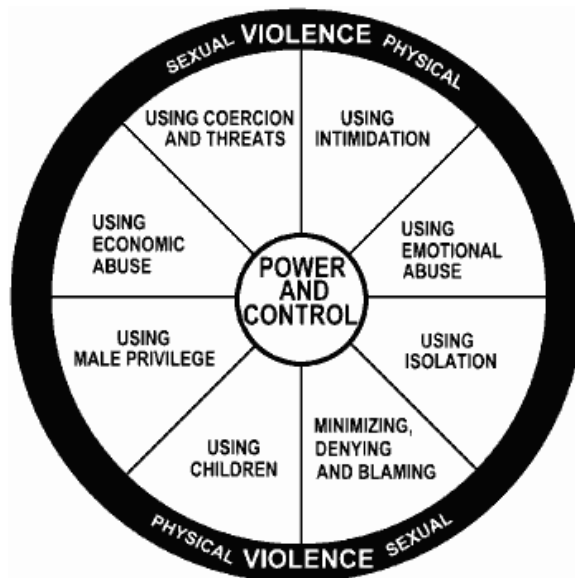
# Domestic Violence.

## Domestic Violence.

**Domestic Violence** (also known as domestic abuse or spousal abuse) occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate another. Domestic violence often refers to violence between spouses. Domestic violence occurs in all cultures; people of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexes and classes can be perpetrators of domestic violence. Domestic violence is perpetrated by both men and women.

### The Wheel of Domestic Violence.

This wheel was created by the Domestic Violence Project; Duluth, Minnesota.



- Cut out the following cards and make students read and match the way men control women with the correspondent explanation.
- Then go to the reading and look for the different aspects of the wheel of violence that appear on the text.
- Comment on the questions.

<b>Using Coercion and Threats</b>	Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her. Threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare. Making her drop charges. Making her do illegal things.
<b>Minimizing, Denying, and Blaming</b>	Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns seriously. Saying the abuse didn't happen. Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior. Saying she caused it.
<b>Using Male Privilege</b>	Treating her like a servant. Making all the big decisions. Acting like the "master of the castle". Being the one to define men's and women's roles.
<b>Using Intimidation</b>	Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures. Smashing things. Destroying her property. Abusing pets. Displaying weapons.
<b>Using Emotional Abuse</b>	Putting her down. Making her feel bad about herself. Calling her names. Making her think she is crazy. Playing mind games. Humiliating her. Making her feel guilty.
<b>Using Isolation</b>	Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads, where she goes. Limiting her outside involvement. Using jealousy to justify actions.
<b>Using Children</b>	Making her feel guilty about the children. Using the children to relay messages. Using visitation to harass her. Threatening to take the children away.
<b>Using Economic Abuse</b>	Preventing her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money. Giving her an allowance. Taking her money. Not letting her know about or have access to family income.

**Read the following testimony.**

Laura was married for 6 months. Her husband was using drugs. She didn't want her son or her unborn baby to live that way, but she was afraid to ask her husband to leave. She left him a note instead. After reading the note, Laura's husband waited for her to come home and then beat her and her son.

He smashed dishes, pictures and toys and left the house in a terrible mess. He said it was all her fault. After Laura cleaned up the mess she went to the hospital. She was badly bruised all over her body, but the baby was fine.



Laura had little education and she never had a good paying job. She was ashamed to ask for help from the police, courts or women's shelters. Laura wanted her marriage and family to work. Sometimes her husband was very nice to her. She decided to try harder so her children could have a home and a father. Laura joined a church and told a priest about her problem.

But her husband kept using drugs and hurting the family. Finally, she told her husband she loved him, but they should live apart for a while. He beat her again. The priest had called and could tell Laura was in trouble. He came over to talk to her. He asked the husband to go out for a while. Laura packed up her kids and left. The next day she lost the baby. Her husband went to jail.

Laura got a lot of help from groups that help women who have been beaten. Now she is in college, has her own apartment and works on special projects at a women's shelter. "We got out, and it changed life for me and my children. You can do it. You can break the cycle," Laura said.

**Conversation:**

Answer the following questions in groups or pairs:

- What are the different forms of domestic violence?
- Which is worse, wife-beating or husband-beating?
- Do you think domestic violence exists in all social classes?
- What would you do if you knew there was domestic violence in the house / apartment next to yours?
- Is there much education about or awareness of domestic violence in your country? Is domestic violence a big problem in your country?
- Do you think the aggressors of domestic violence grew up in an environment of domestic violence and child abuse?
- What are the main causes of domestic violence?
- Why do you think victims of domestic violence stay in the relationship for so long?
- Have you seen movies or TV shows about domestic violence?
- What questions would you ask a violent family member?
- Do you think alcohol plays a large part in domestic violence?